

Arizona Forest Health Council
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Arizona Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Arizona Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Arizona Association of Counties
Board Room
1910 West Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85009
Thursday, November 8, 2012
9:30 am – 2:00 pm
Tele Conference Number: 1-877-820-7831
Passcode: 219418#

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 9:30 am Co-Chair, Scott Hunt

Members Present:

Co-Chair Scott Hunt, Ethan Aumack, Pascal Berlioux, Neil Bosworth, Tonto National Forest, Kent Bushman, Steve Gatewood, Bruce Hallin, Simone Westbrook Hall for Sue Sitko, Diane Vosick for Wally Covington and Ron Williams.

Members via Tel-Conference:

Robert Davis

Members Absent:

Don Berry, Mark Herrington, Kevin Kinsall, Steven Rosenstock, Todd Schulke, Darrell Willis

Public:

Jerry Payne, Deputy State Forester; Brooke Gebow, Southeastern Arizona Preserves Manager The Nature Conservancy; Kerwin Dewberry Deputy Forest Supervisor Tonto National Forest and Beth Nehring Arizona State Forestry Division.

Co-Chair Scott Hunt welcomed the Forest Health Council members and guests in attendance.

Scott presented a certificate for Governor Brewer to Ethan Aumack for his seven years of service with the Arizona Forest Health Council. Scott gave Ethan a chance to address the group. Ethan stated that he believes in the Forest Health Council and our most important work is yet to come.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the July FHC Meeting ~

- Pascal Berlioux moved for approval; Steve Gatewood second.
- Minutes were approved.

3. Council Representation Update ~ Scott Hunt

- Scott gave an update on the Council and introduction of guests: Ethan Aumack is still a member. Marcus Selig is applying for Grand Canyon Trust and is currently Ethan's designee. Kevin Kinsall will announce a new co-chair.

Forest Service Representative Christine Dawe has taken a new position in Idaho. The Forest Service Representative will request Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor from the Tonto National Forest be the new USFS representative. Neil has 20 years with the USFS with background in Legislative Affairs and Fire. Kerwin Dewberry, Deputy Forest Supervisor would be his designee. Kerwin is new to Arizona from Oregon with 18 years with the USFS specializing in wildlife, soils, and air quality.

Kent Bushman from APS also attended his first meeting with the Council.

Scott reported that Mayor Sara Presler is no longer in office. We are looking for a Mayoral replacement. Brooke Gebow reported that the Patagonia Mayor is also the Fire Chief. Mark Herrington will be out of office in January so we will need to look for a new County Supervisor. We also are looking at another Industry Representative.

- Representatives from the Rural Fire Department Community in Southern Arizona, the Commerce Authority, a Rancher, and a Tribal Representative are still needed.

4. State of the State Report ~ Scott Hunt

- **Elections** ~ Scott reported that Proposition 120 failed giving the State the National Forests. Proposition 119 giving the State Land Department permission to trade lands passed. Proposition 118 to change the formula of the State Land Endowment Fund on the distribution to education is still pending. The sales tax failed which could affect state budgets.
- The Flagstaff Bond Vote passed at 72%. Flagstaff will need to develop ISA with State Land to treat the trust lands. Diane Vosik stated that the only comment heard were letters regarding the smoke. Steve Gatewood stated that Flagstaff was having a meeting today to start implementation. They plan to move quickly. Marcus Selig reported that there is an umbrella agreement between the USFS and Flagstaff. A separate agreement initially will be for State Land thinning. Private land is not included.
- Scott reported that Andy Biggs is the new President of the Senate. There will be new committee assignments. John Nelson retired so we will see a new person as Natural Resources Committee Chair. We will need to work at educating the new State leadership on Forestry.

- **Grants** ~ Scott reported that we issued ten Fuel Hazardous Grants in July totaling \$1 million. Wildland Urban Interface Grants have also been awarded. Urban Community Forestry Grants are posted on our website. They are due on November 20. Please get the word out to submit for them.

5. Statewide/National Forestry Activity Update

- **4FRI Contract Briefing** ~ Marcus Selig reported that the planning draft EIS will be put out to the public for review to by the USFS after the first of the year for a 45 day comment period on one million acres.
- Contracting – Pioneer has one firm letter of content. Should have full financing by January 2013.
- Biomass – Concord Blue has signed with Lockheed. Not certain if they will locate in Winslow or Show Low.
- Pascal stated Pioneer is not making any announcements yet. All investors are from Arizona.
- Neil Bosworth stated there is more collaboration with this. We must move forward. The formal comment period is required by law.
- Steve Gatewood stated that with the NEPA comment period the public will have 60-90 days.
- Brooke Gebow of The Nature Conservancy inquired about their workshop which was held in August. Steve stated that the Commerce Authority was still working on a job training program whether it was going to be on the job training or classroom training.
- **Bridging the Gap Meeting** ~ Jerry Payne, Deputy State Forester, reported that on Saturday, November 17 a workshop will be held at Eagar Town Hall for the forest industry folks to meet along with regional staff. This meeting may also need to be done on the Tonto and Kaibab forests.
- **West Wide Fire Risk Assessment** ~ Scott referred members to the West Wide Fire Risk Assessment handout in their packets. The handout shows Arizona wildfire risk summary statistics. The information was provided by Sandborn. Scott will look at having Sandborn attend a future meeting to discuss this assessment.
- **Cohesive Strategy** ~ Scott referred the members to the three phases of the Cohesive Strategy which was a requirement by the FLAME ACT of 2009. The regions are looking at action planning on their reports. Last week in California the State Foresters did not have a feeling on how it was going. Neil stated that they are bringing it down to the local levels. Scott states we are looking at doing outreach here in Phoenix and may need to request the assistance of the Forest Health Council.
- Diane Vosik reported that January 16-18, 2013 there will be a conference in Washington DC designed to identify planning for natural disasters.
- **WGA** ~ Scott stated the WGA has an MOU with the weather service regarding drought across the West. On December 1 & 2 there will be a wildfire panel review with Ann Walker in Scottsdale. Ron Williams stated that from our educational programs last year, WGA created brochures promoting them in other states. It is being used as a best practice looking at WUI codes. The brochure can be found at www.azinsurance.org.
- **Watershed Investment Fund** ~ Marcus Selig they are working with the three major utilities, building a statewide website and moving slowly but steadily.

This is a localized effort and will be used as a model to share with other areas around the State.

6. Work Plan/Visioning Discussion

- ***Next Steps – FHC Work Priorities*** ~ Scott stated that he would like to have interim conference call meetings for compiling a work plan over the next two years.
- Scott stated that two years ago we burned over one million acres of land. Last year we burned 200,000. Good things are going on throughout the State. State Forestry has developed a fire deployment plan. But one year from now how can the FHC help effect change?
- ***Review of FHC 2/12 Recommendations*** ~ Scott went over the identified four recommendations and their outcome. The last page of the document needs to be reviewed regarding the processes recommended for each entity.
- ***Statewide strategy/assessment revision needs*** ~ The 2007 Statewide Strategy and the 2010 Forest Action Plan needs to be revised in 2015. We need to work on these two documents. Both plans have valid information and strategy. We need to pull out appropriate information from them.
- Steve Gatewood stated that a scorecard was used previously. A five year review of the 2007 Statewide Strategy needs to be done. Steve suggested that a working team be setup and he would be glad to chair it. Use this document along with the Governor's recommendations, review and see where we are. Make corrections as needing making sure to address watershed issues, steep slopes upstream from critical resources.
- Pascal stated focus on what the work should be. Propose to focus on execution doing what we plan. We need for Arizona to promote the execution of these strategies. White Mountain Stewardship and Four FRI – make sure that we facilitate focus for a year or two on these executions.
- Diane asked what our most limiting factor is. Recommend that we invest more into the problem which will take money. Work on a statewide mandate of how we get to the goals of land health in all the forests. How do we increase resources statewide where there is not utilization to proceed? Marcus remarked that these are all active things we can do. Jerry remarked that we need to broaden the proposals for the Western Competitive Grants.
- Rob Davis said that the White Mountain Stewardship is not over. There are opportunities to support what we have currently. Businesses are still there investing money. Diane asked what can be done to help those businesses. Rob said that it is part of 4FRI and a lot more. Scott reported that we do not want to slight any existing industry. Pascal recommended tasks orders to the 4FRI contractor. Ask for additional contracts to the current industries. Neil stated that with the 4FRI restoration if there are any existing industries we will use them.
- Scott discussed developing a FHC work plan. Diane recommended that a small group convene. Filter this list be what is durable by this group. Create a work list and not a wish list. Marcus recommended that as a group we look through this list and indicate things and goal that are missing. Think about our activities. Brooke inquired what actions have this group already taken.
- The Work Plan Planning Group will be: Bruce Hallin; Diane Vosik; Marcus Selig; Steve Gatewood; Sue Sitko; Pascal Berlioux; Rob Davis and Scott

Hunt. A date will be set for a planning committee meeting within the next three weeks to share the ideas. Brainstorm missing needs or ideas. Scott would like to meet face to face every two months and have a conference call the second Thursday every other month.

- ***Connecting the dots on existing collaborative/forestry groups*** ~ Scott stated that the Forest Health Council has met at the Wildfire Academy. It brought people together to learn. Marcus recommended that another Forest Health Summit be held. The Wildfire Academy venue would be a possibility. We need to start planning. Cohesive Strategy is also a possibility by invitation only.
- ***State Forestry Stewardship & Urban/Forestry Committees*** ~ Scott reported that the urban Forestry Statewide Committee was part of the Arizona Community Tree Council. Since the ACTC receives grants it is not recommended to be the oversight committee. Would the FHC like to do the statewide oversight with one or two representatives? It was recommended that a one page handout be compiled that would inform us what we might do to oversee this committee.

7. **Call to the Public** ~

- Brooke Gebow, The Nature Conservancy, spoke on Firescape, a program with the Coronado National Forest. Compliance is at a big scale. Scoped and proposed action plans are in place. The energy is still there and keeping attitudes positive even though there is discouragement in the lack of funding.
- Scott stated that Tom Harbour reported that \$1.4 billion was spending on fire this year. Next year's forecast is estimated at \$1.6 billion, \$2.6 billion for the entire fire season.
- Beth Nehring reported that we are close to finalizing three more Firewise communities in the Prescott area, with an additional six communities in the works. Also there are approximately five communities in the Scottsdale area planned for the near future.
- Steve Gatewood stated that he received a Wildfire Defense Systems free assessment from his insurance company USAA for completion.

8. **Meeting Schedule and Locations**

- January 10, 2013 (location TBD)
- March 14, 2013 (location TBD)

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

*Dated this November 14, 2012
Arizona Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>*